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(From the Herald of Peace for December.)

WAR THE SUPPORTER AND INCREASES OF INTEMPERANCE

THE MORAL CONDITION OF OUR ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.—Most deplorable are the revelations made by some of the correspondence from the Crimea as to the character and habits of our soldiers. "I regret to say," writes the Crimean correspondent of the Times, of the 15th of October, "that drunkenness is very prevalent among the men. The consequence of this, and of his insubordination, and many offences it leads to, is a large amount of punishment of various kinds—extra guards, stone-carrying, and flogging. The cart-wheel (here substituted for the triangle) is frequently rigged, and the provost-marshal and his assistants have plenty on their hands: but twenty-five lashes, or even fifty, are all insufficient to wean the British soldier from his favorite vice. I hear of regiments in which there are literally scores of men under punishment of one sort or other for intoxication. One regiment was cited to me (I refrain from naming it) in which there were sixty offenders of this sort at one time. In another, nine serjeants were broken for drunkenness. On Saturday there was an issue of back pay (the extra sixpence,) and *I never witnessed a more disgraceful scene than was presented by the camp at about an hour before sunset on Sunday afternoon.*"

Still stronger is the language of the same correspondent in a more recent letter, under date of October 22nd:—"Is the British army, in the Crimea to become, or rather to continue, a model of drunkenness for all nations? I certainly am not giving too much importance to this question by insisting upon it very strongly. *Yesterday was Sunday.* I rode into Balaklava at one P. M., through Kadikoi Major, and returned, towards dusk, through Kadikoi Minor. The sights I saw, both going and returning, were enough to make an Englishman despair of his countrymen. All along the road were men—not only privates, but non-commissioned officers—in every stage of drunkenness. Sobriety was really the exception, intoxication the rule.—Noisy groups, flushed and unsteady with drink, were interspersed with staggering sots who could not keep on their legs. Two highlanders, one of them on the ground, the other making violent efforts to get his comrade to stand up, were affording, at two in the afternoon, great amusement to a number of French road-makers. Sunday is not a day of rest for the French working parties. Three hours later I passed a group of three non-commissioned officers of some line regiment. The centre man was kept from falling only by the support of the two others, themselves far from sober, and the trio made the most of the road after the most approved fashion. Numbers of officers must have met this group, and the natural and proper course would have been to take their names, and send them at once to their quarters under arrest; but drunkenness here has reached such a pitch, that it would be an endless task to do this. The tavern booths of the Old Kadikoi were crowded with drinkers, and rang with oaths, obscenity and brawls. Notwithstanding the closing of many of the establishments there, the place is still a scene of life and bustle, while Little Kadikoi, hard, by the Guards' camp, has not upon week days the appearance of doing much business. But in the evening, when the working parties come off duty, and *on Sundays*, when they have none to do, it is as much thronged as the booths on a race-course, or at a fair, or as the back slums of a seaport town when half a dozen men-of-war have been paid off. Drink, of course, is nearly the sole object of its frequenters; and drink, not in moderation, but to the most beastly excess. Yes—



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